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By M. MAC LEAN.

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AGRICULTURAL.

From the Western Farmer & Gardener.

SAVE AND CULTIVATE YOUR MULBERRIES.

SUCCESS IN SILK GROWING.

We have made a collection of *facts*, from various papers, as to the success in silk growing in different parts of the country, which we think sufficient to warrant our saying, that there is no doubt whatever of its becoming of equal importance with cotton growing, and far more than sufficient to counteract the evil tendency of such articles as one that appeared in a recent number of one of our best agricultural papers, the "Farmer's Cabinet," where the principal argument made use of was, the *effeminacy character* of the employment, rendering it unworthy the attention of *men!*

To those who have large quantities of the morus multicaulis, we would say, do not allow them to be destroyed or wasted; there is no doubt of their being in moderate demand and at fair prices; determine on some price, say 8 or 12 cents each for good trees, and keep them, rather than part with them for less; by no means *give them away*—your doing so will benefit no one, as those who get them for nothing, most assuredly will not value them. Let those who have trees, and ground to spare, set out a permanent plantation of an acre or two this season; our word for it, such a plantation will ultimately pay.

Mr. Gill's letters speak volumes and ought to be carefully read by all.

In the neighborhood of Nashville, Tennessee, much has been done; the spirited efforts of a few individuals there, if they go on as they have begun, will render Nashville one of the head quarters of the silk business in the west.

Various individuals in this vicinity have done a little, and almost all have succeeded so well, as to be making arrangements to go into it largely this next season.

In Kentucky and Indiana much more has been done than is generally known or believed.

The Burlington Silkworm Record says:

Mr. Daniel Spaulding of Hancock, N. H., is preparing to put up our improved Frame in his cocoonery.

Mr. R. Shore of Morganville, Va. has built a cocoonery large enough to feed 300 000 worms.

Mr. John B. Hart, of Scott's Ferry, Va., writes us for information as to cost of delivering frames at Richmond, stating that he has some expectation of building a cocoonery this winter, 54 by 27 feet.

Mr. L. A. Spalding writes from Lockport, N. Y., as follows—

"I have paid some attention to the silk business, and had foliage sufficient to feed a large number of worms the past summer but could not get the eggs. I have now a supply. In feeding I have had good success, and in reeling beyond my expectation. The whole operation is so simple that its success is no longer doubtful. It is settled that the country will supply itself with a large portion of its consumption in few years."

From the Rev. John Foster, of Lebanon, Ohio, we have received the following—

I have been trying to make a little silk now for two or three years. I have done as well as I expected, according to my means. Indeed I have not attempted any thing but to learn the habits of the worms, until the past summer. This summer I fed all I could get, which was very few. They did well, except an early brood which was fed upon the native mulberry."

From Louisiana we have accounts of several gentlemen embarking in the business. Great success may be expected in that delightful climate.

Mr. Frederick Brownell, So. Westport, Mass., obtained 15 bushels of cocoons the present season, from about 60,000 worms.

Mr. N. E. Chaffee, of Ellington, Conn. writes as follows—

"I have fed worms this season, obtained 20 bushels of cocoons, though fed wholly on board shelves. By what I can gather from the description of your frame in the Record, I think very favorably of it."

The following extract of a letter from Mr. John Iredell, of Enoch, Monroe co., Ohio, is strikingly characteristic of his praiseworthy perseverance—

"We have been engaged for three years past, in feeding a few silk worms, from 10 to 30,000, on the wild mulberry, and have produced some excellent silk."

At Patriot Indiana a silk growing company has been established, but is not yet in operation. From Mr. J. B. Taylor of that place we learn the following particulars, obtained by him from Mr. H. Haxley, of the success of the latter in rearing worms during the past summer—

"The building occupied as a cocoonery was an unfinished house, floors not laid, and one side without weather-boarding, consequently the worms were exposed to all the changes of weather; the shelves were made of rough one-inch boards, and the worms placed upon hurdles made of cotton cord. The Alpine seedling was used exclusively for feeding, the multicaulis having been layered in the spring, did not produce leaves in season for the first crop of worms, and in the latter part of the season eggs could not be obtained. The cocoons raised will make about 25 lbs. of sewing silk, at a low estimate. A small reel and spinning mill were constructed, and a very fair and saleable article of sewing silk was produced, which is pronounced by our merchants to be equal to any they can purchase."

Mr. Taylor himself adds, "I have a specimen of the silk now in my possession, and can bear testimony to the excellence of its quality. In this section of country it is worth $12 per pound. Mr. H. reeled, spun, and dyed it himself; the spinning mill is of his own invention and construction."

This is a remarkable statement altogether. No doubt Mr. Huxley is entitled to the highest praise every way; but so far as relates to his cocoons, we believe a great portion of his success was owing solely to *luck*. The best evidence of his mechanical and manufacturing skill, appears in his having produced sewing silk with his own hands on a machine of his own making that sold for $12 per pound. Truly we may expect great results from the enterprise of such a man as this.

And, from the N. E. Farmer.

One person this year has been experimenting upon one quarter of an acre of mulberries with the view of testing Mr. M.'s assertions of last year, and also to convince his incredulous neighbors. He will probably have 9 to 12 12 pounds of raw silk from that one quarter of an acre, worth $5 per lb., say $50; whereas if the same land had been planted with corn, he might have had 75 bushels at 75 cents—$56 25; or if with wheat, might have had enough to make one barrel of flour worth $5 25. It costs no more to transport a pound of silk to market, worth five dollars, than a pound of flour, worth four cents; and while it requires at least *six months* to mature a crop of wheat for the market, *six weeks* are sufficient for a crop of silk; and after deducting every possible expense between the culture of a grain and a silk crop, is not the difference of profit so far superior as to encourage some passing notice of silk, and especially when an inferior soil is adapted to the growth of the mulberry?

We add, from the Urbana Western Citizen the following additional particulars—

We were not aware, until very recently, that any of our citizens had turned their attention to this subject. Our readers have already been advised of the fact that Mr. *Leyhan* of Salem township, received a premium of $5 from the county treasury, being the bounty offered by the Legislature for every 50 lbs of cocoons raised in the State. A few days ago Mr. *Kidder*, of Rush township, presented us with a skein of sewing silk, of his own manufacture, which for beauty and durability, will favorably compare with the eastern or foreign make. Mr. Kidder informed us that he raised 80 lbs. of cocoons during the past season—the bounty on which was $8. This is all manufactured into sewing silk and sold at a profit. The proceeds of the past season will amount to about $200; and the principal part of the labor is performed by a young lady in the family. This is a good beginning.

These are encouraging statements, and such as we hope will confirm the waverer, convince the doubter, and silence the sneerer.

T. A.

IMPROVING LAND WITH PLASTER OF PARIS AND CLOVER.

We are not apprised of the price of it in other parts of the State, but in the tobacco raising portion of it, it has risen within a few years, from ten and fifteen up to forty and fifty dollars an acre.—This, however, is where *plaster of paris* is known to have a powerful effect on the clover crop;—and truly the influence of this substance in augmenting the productiveness of the soil to which it is adapted, approaches as nearly to inscrutable *magic*, as any thing can well do. The reader who is not familiar with its action, could scarcely believe statements which might truly be made of particular instances of its efficacy. To mention a single case for example which we heard of on a recent very delightful visit to the neighborhood of Nottingham, to celebrate the birth of an old friend. An old exhausted field in Prince George's County, which produced one hundred barrels, or five hundred bushels of corn, was afterwards sowed in oats with clover, which was "plastered" at the usual rate of a bushel of plaster to the acre. The next spring the field was again plastered at the same rate, and the clover turned in. The spring succeeding the same field was put in corn and tobacco. The portion of it appropriated to *corn*, yielded two hundred and forty barrels, or twelve hundred bushels—and that part of it which was planted in *tobacco*, gave twelve thousands weight—equal, in value, at $5 per hundred, to two hundred and forty barrels, or twelve hundred bushels more of corn, say at 60 cents per bushel—making an increase in the product and its value of this single field, from one hundred barrels, or five hundred bushels of corn, worth three hundred dollars, at sixty cents,—up to seven hundred and twenty dollars worth of tobacco at six dollars per hundred, and seven hundred and twenty dollars worth of corn at sixty cents per bushel: aggregate, *fourteen hundred and forty dollars against three hundred dollars!* or very nearly five for one increase of crop!—the result of two applications of plaster of Paris, at the rate of one bushel per acre, and one sowing of clover seed at the usual rate of one gallon to the acre, with the proper allowance of the additional labour demanded for the culture and preparation of the *tobacco crop*, over the same and (probably about 15 acres) in that which would have been required for corn. But as the whole was probably then sown in wheat, the greater quantity yielded by the land that was in tobacco, over that which was in corn, tobacco, being a less exhauster than corn, and a much better preparative for wheat, would in some measure make up for the difference in labor. Does the reader who understands the case as we have stated it, wonder at the value of these lands?—for we can assure him that the instance given will not be considered an extraordinary one in all the lower part of Anne Arundel—in all Prince George's and Calvert Counties, and, we believe in a large part of Charles and St. Mary's Counties. Under all the circumstances of the country, it should excite no surprise, that while other securities, especially bank and other stocks, decline; *land*, and especially what is called *plaster*, and tobacco land, should rise in full proportion. We have long foreseen and foretold this result. Nothing has been clearer to our perception than that profits might be made by investments in the poorest kind of that land, and especially in Calvert County, which being out of the way of public observation, would be the last to attract the notice of capitalists—but with which we were familiar, it being the one of our humble nativity. In the upper part of that county, a wealthy gentleman, Mr. F. B. S. lately gave $15 an acre for land which not many years since he had himself sold for $15. How can it fail that land so easily improved, and so convenient to market, should be more and more in demand? True, it takes a long time to change the habits of a people—to check and turn back the current of emigration! A nation can't think and act in a day; hence they sometimes submit ten or twelve years to abuses before they can throw them off. When our old lands on the tide water courses were exhausted, before the quick and powerful regenerating effect of plaster of Paris was known: at a time when *lots* for tobacco could only be kept up by the annual use of *animal* manure; so expensive in its application, from the labor it involves—when there was little natural, and still less of artificial grasses for hay to sustain animals—before agricultural implements were so highly improved—when, in a word, all the fruits of agriculture would scarcely pay the expense of producing them, it can be no cause of surprise that the worn out lands of the Atlantic border should have been abandoned for the cheaper and more fertile prairies and valleys of the West. Hence the tide of imigrants and emigrants took that direction, and though since, and at this time, what was then natural and rational and founded in sound calculation, has ceased to be so—as circumstances alter cases; yet, this disposition to look to the West, having acquired the force of habit, with the blindness of all prejudices, the effect continued after the original cause had ceased; and men having money to invest continued to go or send it first up to the foot of, and then over the mountains; away from the facilities to market, and the enjoyments of a thousand comforts, existing nearer home. But this westward movement has spent its force, and accordingly our old tide-water region is rising in public esteem, and beginning to be appreciated as it should, for advantages as to facility of communication with the best markets, natural resources for luxurious living, and a capacity and readiness to respond and vivify under the calls of skill and industry, not excelled if equalled by any other lands in the world.

After all, the problem arises, how it is, that in a district of country, so abounding in the good things which land and water supply for the sustenance of man—so contiguous to the most populous cities, a district susceptible of being brought back to its original fertility by means and processes so cheap, should yet not increase, if it does not recede, *in population?* This problem may be answered, but it will require some leisure and some thought—the latter we will bestow upon it, when we can get a moment of the former. In the meantime we lay it down as our opinion, that the plaster and tobacco lands of the tide water country of the United States constitute the region where agricultural labor may be, and is applied with the most profit—and that "*by and large*" they offer to the capitalist, the most safe and eligible investment that can be made: taking into the account as it is fair to do—the pleasure of rural life—quick and easy communication, when desired, with the great world, constant advice of what is passing therein, vicinity to the best schools, access to the society of the most intelligent and courteous; not forgetting, as we should not do, all the *game and all the sports* that belong to the field and the brook; all that dog can run into, or the gun bring *down on the one*—or the seine or the hook bring up *out of the other!*

From the Farmer's Companion.

THE IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE TO A NATION.

There is no business of life which so highly conduces to the prosperity of a nation, & to the happiness of its entire population, as that of cultivating the soil. Agriculture may be regarded, says the great Sully, as the breasts from which the state derives support & nourishment. Agriculture is truly our nursing mother, which gives food, and growth, and wealth and moral health and character, to our country. It may be considered the great wheel which moves all the machinery of society; and that whatever gives to this a new impulse, communicates a corresponding impetus to the thousand minor wheels of interest which it propels and regulates. While the other classes of the community are directly dependent upon agriculture, for a regular and sufficient supply of the means of subsistence, the agriculturist is able to supply all the absolute wants of life from his own labors; though he derives most of his pleasures and profits from an interchange of the products of labor with the other classes of society. Agriculture is called the parent of arts, not only because it was the first of arts, because it was the first art practiced by man, but because the other arts are its legitimate offspring, and cannot continue long to exist without it. It is the great business of civilized life, and gives employment to a vast majority of almost every people.

The substantial prosperity of a country is always in the ratio of its agricultural industry and wealth. Commerce and manufactures may give temporary consequence to a state, but these are always a precarious dependence. They are effeminating and corrupting, and unless backed by a prosperous agricultural population, they engender the elements of speedy decay and ruin. Venice, Genoa, Portugal, Spain, &c., each in turn rose to wealth and power by commercial enterprize. But they all now exhibit melancholy evidences of fallen greatness. They have fallen in succession, from their high standing victims to the more robust energies of rival powers, or to the enervating and corrupting influence of commercial cupidity. They exhibit nothing now, in their political or social institutions, and but little in their agriculture or in the useful arts, that can be admired or coveted by the citizens of our free country. Great Britain has now become ascendant in commerce and manufactures, yet her greatness in these sources of power and opulence, is primarily and principally owing to the excellent condition of her agriculture; without which she would not be able to sustain her manufactures or her commerce, in their present flourishing state, or long retain her immense foreign possessions, or any thing like her present population. Only one third of her inhabitants are said to be employed in agriculture, yet the labors of this one third, such is the high condition of her husbandry, suffice to furnish subsistence for the whole. Five millions, of all ages, produce annually, from her limited soil, seven hundred millions worth of agricultural produce, averaging about one hundred and forty dollars for each man, woman, and child of her agricultural population. The recently published letters of the Rev. Dr. Humphrey, are so conclusive upon this subject, not only in regard to the importance of agriculture to a nation, but as showing the susceptibility of this art of high improvement and great productiveness, that we here quote an extract in illustration of what we have stated.

"It is the opinion of competent judges, says Dr. Humphrey, "that the advances made in the agriculture of Great Britain, during the last seventy or eighty years, are scarcely exceeded by the improvement and extension of its manufactures, within the same period; and that to these advances, no other old settled country furnishes any parallel. That they have been very rapid indeed, the following figures and comparisons abundantly show. In 1760 the total growth of all kinds of grain in England and Wales, was about 120,000,000 bushels. To this should be added perhaps, 30,000,000 for Scotland—making a total of 150,000,000. In 1835, the quantity in both kingdoms could not have been less than 340,000,000 bushels. In 1775, the population of the whole Island did not much, if any, exceed 7,500,000. In 1831, it had risen to 16,535,180, being an increase of 9,000,000 or 120 per cent! Now the improvements in agriculture have more than kept pace with this prodigious increase of demand for its various productions; for it is agreed on all hands, that the 16,500,000, or rather the 17,500 000 (for more than a million has been added since 1831) are much fuller fed, and on provisions of a better quality, the than the 7 500,000 were in 1775. Nor is Great Britain indebted at all, at present to foreign markets for her supplies. Since 1833 she has imported no grain worthing mentioning; and till within the last six months, prices have been so exceedingly depressed, as to call forth loud complaints from the whole agricultural interest of the country. England is, at this moment, so far from wanting any of our breadstuffs, if we had them to export, that she has been supplying us all winter liberally from her own granaries;* and according to the latest advices, she has still bread enough, and to spare. Again, it is estimated by British writers, of high authority, that the subsistence of 9 000,000 people costs, in raw produce, no less than £72 000 000, or £8 for each individual, per annum. According to this estimate, the annual products of this great branch of national industry is $350 000 000 more at present than it was in 1775; which is more than twice the whole cotton manufacture of the country, in 1831. Now if it costs $350 000 000 to feed the increased population of 9,000,000 then to feed the present population of 17,500 000 must cost near 700 000 000! What an amazing agricultural product for so small a territory! And yet it is the opinion of practical men of the highest respectability in England that the raw produce of the Island might be well-nigh doubled, without any great proportional expense being incurred in production, that is to say, 35,000 000 people might draw their subsistence from that one little speck in the ocean! Now we have a territory more than fifteen times as large as the Island of Great Britain; and what should hinder it, when it comes to be brought under no higher cultivation than some parts of England and Scotland, from supporting a population of five or six hundred millions of people? This would give Virginia something like thirty millions; to Illinois and Missouri, about the same number each; to New York near twenty five millions and so on in proportion to the other States. I am quite aware that this estimate will be regarded as extremely visionary and incredible, by many of your readers, but not more so than it would have been in the middle of the last century, that England Scotland and Wales could ever be made to sustain thirty-five, or even thirty millions."

A city may flourish by foreign commerce—by becoming the carrier of other nations, as Venice and Genoa have once done,—foreign aggression or foreign rivalship—contingencies of no unfrequent occurrence in the history of nations—may blast its prospects and reduce it like the cities we have named, to ostentatious beggary or consign it like Tyre Persepolis Petra and other cities of the East, to ruin and oblivion.

A *town* or *district* may flourish by its manufacturing industry; as many have done in ancient and modern times as long as it can exchange its merchandise for the means of subsistence and of wealth; but if its dependence for these contingencies is upon foreign lands, its prosperity is unstable. The exchange may be interrupted or destroyed by war by the want of a demand for its commodities, or a failure in a supply of the necessaries of life.

A *country* can only continue long prosperous, and be truly independent, when it is sustained by agricultural intelligence, agricultural industry, and agricultural wealth. Tho' its commerce may be swept from the ocean—and it manufactures perish—yet, if its soil is well tilled by an independent yeomanry, it can still be made to yield all the necessaries of life—it can sustain its population and its independence;—and when its misfortunes abate, it can, like the trunkless roots of a recently cut down tree, firmly braced in, and deriving nourishment from the soil, send forth a new trunk, new branches, new foliage, and new fruits;—it can rear again the edifice of its manufacturer, and spread again the sails of its commerce.

But agriculture is beneficial to a state in proportion as its labors are encouraged, enlightened, and honored—for in that proportion, does it add to national wealth and happiness.

Agriculture feeds all. Were agriculture to be neglected, population would diminish, because the necessaries of life would be wanting. Did it not supply more than is necessary for its own wants, every other art would not only be at a stand but every science, and every kind of mental improvement, would be neglected.—Manufactures and commerce originally owed their existence to agriculture. Agriculture furnishes in a great measure, raw materials and commodities for barter and exchange for the other. In proportion as these raw materials and commodities are multiplied, by the intelligence and industry of the farmer, and the consequent improvement of the soil, in the same proportion are manufactures and commerce benefitted—not only in being furnished with more abundant supplies, but in the increased demand for their fabrics and merchandize. The more agriculture produces the more she sells—the more she buys; and the business and comfort of society are mainly influenced and controlled by the result of her labors.

Agriculture directly or indirectly pays the burdens of our taxes and our toils.—which support the government, and sustain our internal improvements and the more abundant her means, the greater will be her contributions. The farmer who manages his business ignorantly and slothfully, and who produces from it only just enough for the subsistence of his family, pays no tolls on the transit of his produce, and but a small tax upon the nominal value of his lands. Instruct him, and awaken him to industry, by the hope of distinction and reward so that he triples the products of his labor, the value of his lands is increased in a corresponding ratio, his comforts are multiplied his mind disenthralled, and two-thirds of his products go to augment the business and tolls of our canals and roads. If such a in the situation of one farm, would add one hundred dollars to the wealth and one dollar to the tolls of the state, what an astonishing aggregate would be produced both in capital and in revenue, by a similar improvement on 250 000 farms, the assumed number in the state of New York. The capital would be augmented 25 millions, and the revenue two hundred and fifty thousand dollars per annum.

Agriculture is the principal source of our wealth. It furnishes more productive labor, the legitimate source of wealth than all the other employments in society combined. The more it is enlightened by science, the more abundant will be it's products; the more elevated its character, the stronger the incitements to pursue it. Whatever; therefore, tends to enlighten the agriculturist, tends to increase the wealth of the state, and the means for the successful prosecution of the other arts; and the sciences now indispensable to their profitable management.

Agriculturists are the guardians of our free born. They are fountains of political power. If the fountains become impure; the stream will be defiled. If the agriculturist is slothful, and ignorant and poor, he will be spiritless and servile. If he is enlightened, industrious and prosperous freeman, he will be independent in mind, jealous of his rights, and watchful for the public good. His welfare of the state. He is vitally fixed to the soil; and has, therefore, a paramount interest, as well as right power, to defend from the encroachments of foreign and domestic foes. If his country suffers, he must suffer; if she prospers, he too may expect to prosper. Hence, whatever tends to improve the intellectual condition of the farmer, and to elevate him above venal temptation, essentially contributes to the good order of society at large, and to the perpetuity of our country's freedom.

Agriculture is the parent of physical and moral health to the state—as the salt which preserves from moral corruption. Not only are her labors useful in administering to our wants, and in dispensing the blessing of abundance to others, but she is constantly exercising a salutary influence upon the moral and physical health of the state, and in perpetuating the republican habits and good order of society. While rural labor is the great source of physical health and constitutional vigor to our population, it interposes the most formidable barrier to the demoralizing influence of luxury and vice. We seldom hear of civil commotions, of crimes, or of hereditary disease, among those who are steadily engaged in the business of agriculture. Men who are satisfied with the abundant and certain resources of their own labor, and their own farms, are not willing to jeopard those enjoyments, by promoting popular tumult or tolerating crime. The more we promote the interest of the agriculturist, by developing the powers of his mind, and elevating his moral views the more we shall promote the virtue and happiness of society.

The facts which are here submitted must afford ample proof, that agriculture is all important to us as a nation; and that our prosperity in manufactures, in commerce, and in the other pursuits of life, will depend in a great measure, upon the returns which the soil makes to agricultural labor. It therefore becomes the interest of every class, to cherish, to enlighten, to honor, and to reward those who engage in agricultural pursuits. Our independence was won by our yeomanry, and it can only be preserved by them.

*This was a few years ago.

From the Boston Cultivator.

BREAKING IN STEERS AND YOUNG OXEN.

Boys must never be allowed to put the first yoke on to young steers. It requires the best judgment of grown men to break young cattle. If not closely watched they acquire many bad habits, of which it is difficult to correct them. When